

Poston, Lyda

History of Zion Church.

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**HISTORY**

of

**ZION CHURCH**

*Lyda Poston*



**1816-1955**

*From E. Weathers,*  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
PROBATION COMMISSION  
513 W. Sumter St,  
Shelby, NC.

RALEIGH, N.C.

Wednesday, April 17, 1957, Received and  
Completed full reading at one sitting  
within two hours. Following morning  
mailed two dollars cash in payment to  
Atty. Bynum E. Weathers, 513 W. Sumter Street  
Shelby, North Carolina. PCG-



To:

Hon. P. Cleveland Gardner,  
Attorney-at-Law,

~~411 North Columbia St,  
Shelby, North Carolina~~

411 North Columbia St,

Chapel Hill,

NC

## P R E F A C E

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Brotherhood of Zion, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Kiser the assistant editors, and the many people who have assisted in making this book possible. I am deeply indebted to the early historic papers written by Mr. J. M. Wilson and the Rev. D. F. Putnam. I should like to express my thanks to the church clerks who have kept the records these many years.

I desire especially to thank the older present members for information and Mrs. Florence Lackey for access to the records kept in her home.

—Lyda Poston  
Editor

On behalf of the Zion Baptist Church, We, the Brotherhood, deacons and pastor, hereby express to Miss Lyda Poston, the Author, our deep appreciation for her untiring efforts in searching out and compiling the information contained in this history of our church.

of Crastonia.

## Cabaniss Family Reunion Planned

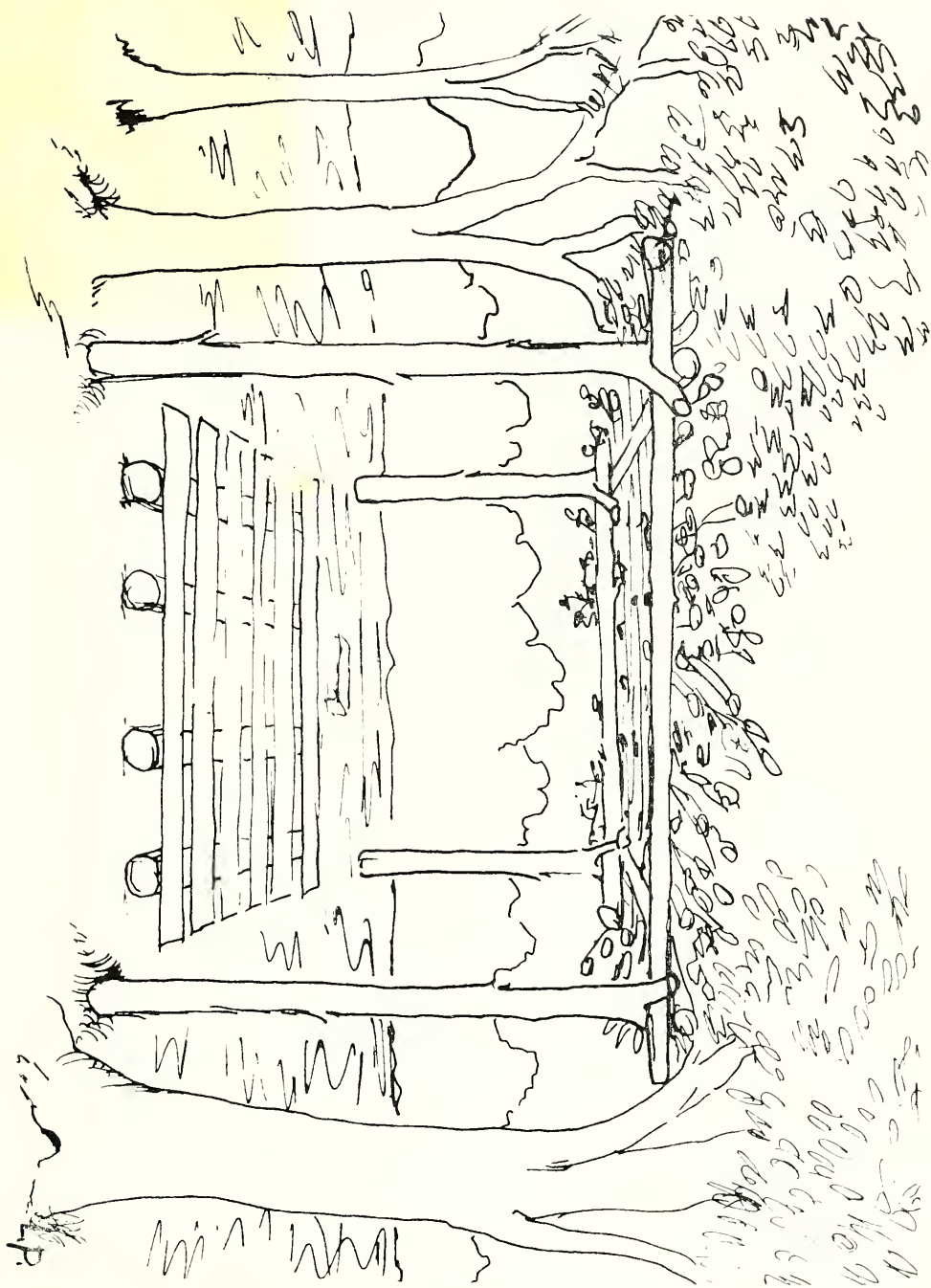
Seventh annual reunion of the Cabaniss family will be held at Zion Baptist Church on Sunday.

Picnic dinner will be spread on tables on the church grounds at 12:30 p.m. The group will assemble in the church for a program and business session at 2 o'clock.

After devotionals, reports and election of officers, there will be a brief talk on the family history by the Rev. W. P. Biggerstaff.

Copies of the family history will be available for purchase.





## ZION CHURCH

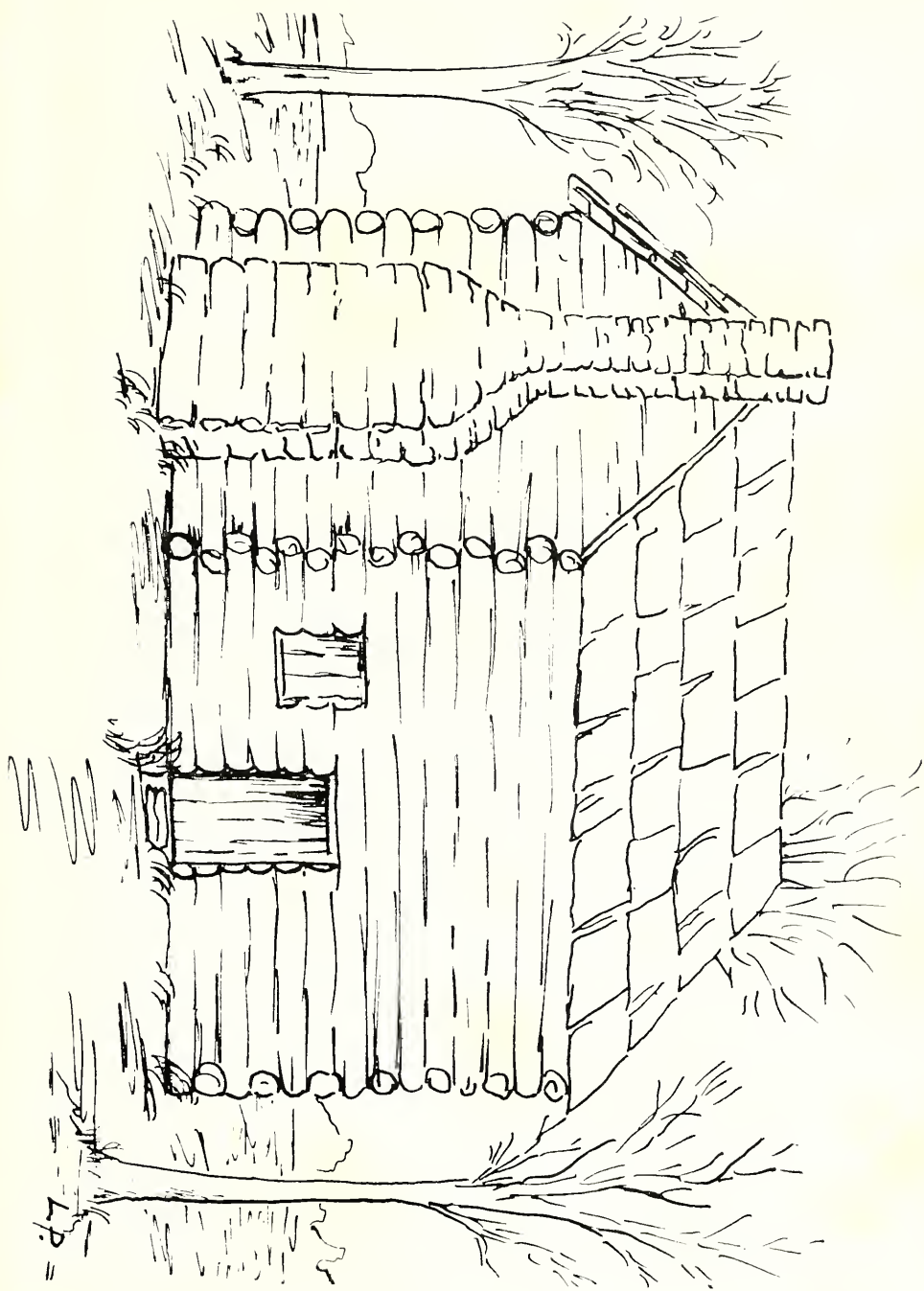
### Location and Early History

Zion Church, now worshipping in the fifth church house, and the oldest Church in the Kings Mountain Baptist Association, is located on the Zion Church Road, six miles North of Shelby, about half a mile east of Highway 26. It is across a small stream to the West of the old Dave Evens homestead which served as the first court house of Cleveland County. Located nearby was the old Weathers Mill, known later as the old Lutz Mill. These grounds have been a place of public gatherings two hundred years or more. The first plot of land, three acres, was purchased for the Anabaptist Church or Society at Zion, (The term by which they were known then,) from Willis Weathers April 5th, 1814, by Samuel Bailey, William Covington and Mark Dedmon, commissioners of the Zion Society.

Spiritual services were held on these grounds a number of years before the church house was constituted. (Some of the early records were destroyed by a fire in the church clerk's home but the purchase of the first plot of land, its date, and cost was learned from the first land deed which Zion now owns. It is framed and hangs in the office of the church.) The older people often spoke of the stand or brush arbor where they met to hear the scriptures expounded by the Rev. Drewery Dobbins and other ministers of that period.

On Friday (Aug. 31) before the first Sunday in September 1816, previous arrangements having been made, a presbytery was formed by Rev. Drewery Dobbins, and Rev. Ber-





riman Hicks with deacons from Sandy Run Baptist Church, the only church prior to Zion in this section of the country, and other more distance churches, organized Zion Church with what is thought to be these Charter Members:

#### MALE

Samuel Bailey  
 William Covington  
 Henry Bailey  
 Bolin Connor  
 William Connor  
 James Nolon  
 Elias Putnam  
 Griggs Putnam  
 David Warlick  
 William Wellmon  
 John White  
 Jeremiah White  
 West Yarborough

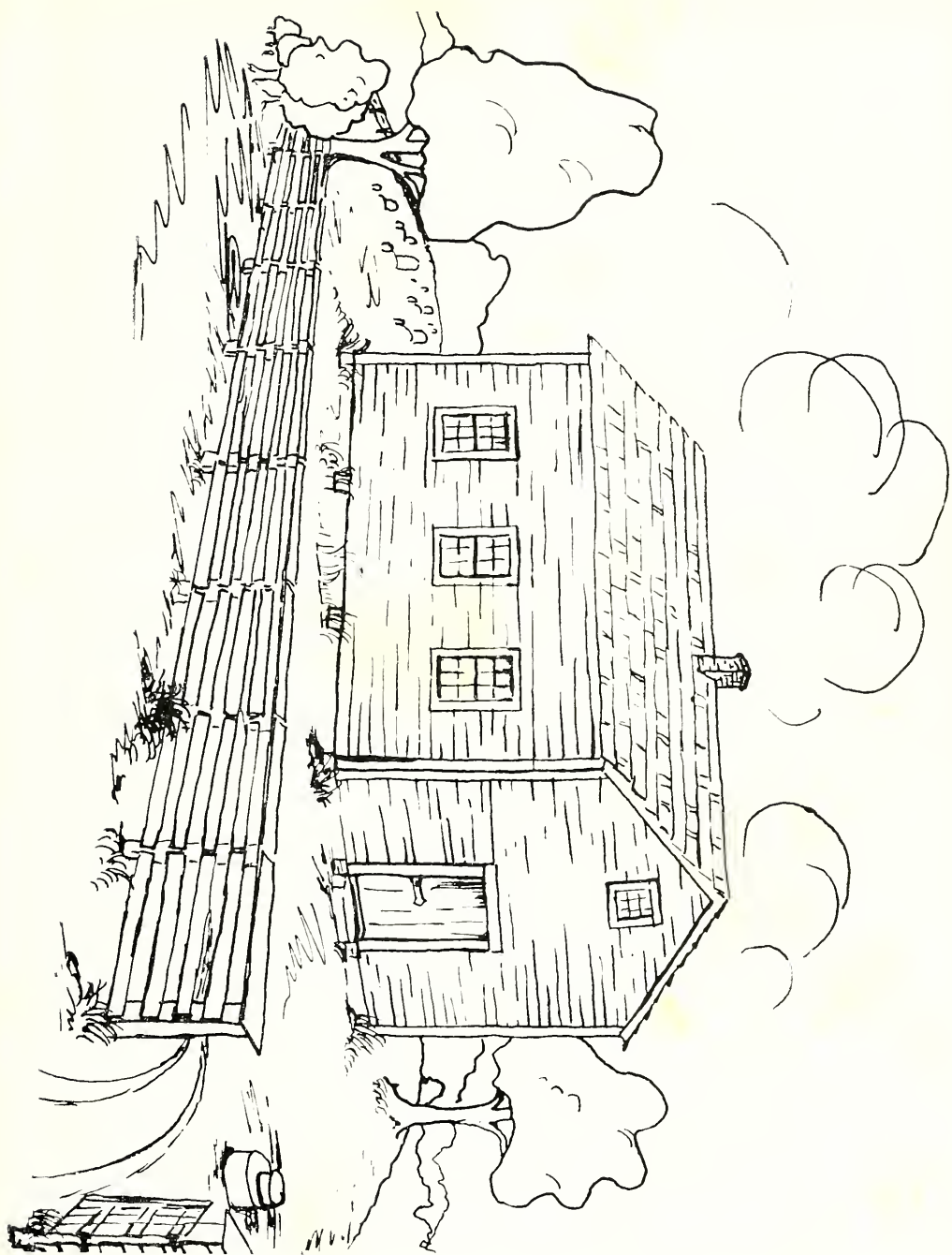
#### Female

Peggy Bailey  
 Cory Weathers  
 Carrie Martin  
 Nancy Putnam  
 Sarah Plummer  
 Susanna Putnam  
 Annah Pool  
 Dicy Martin  
 Polley Bailey  
 Martha Childers John White  
 Sally Clark  
 Polly London  
 Elenor Connor  
 Polly Rodgers  
 Sarah Stovall  
 Sarah Vaughn  
 Polly Yarborough

The Rev. Drewery Dobbins was elected the first pastor. Samuel Bailey, William Covington, and David Warlick were the first deacons. Samuel Bailey also served as the first clerk.

Services were held on the first Sabbath of each month and on Saturday before. The business of the church was transacted on Saturday. One would think the church would have been without members the way they were excluded and discharged though the membership steadily increased. It was encouraging however, to dismiss a group of members to establish a new church and often that was the cause. In these early days, members were often added by letter and by experience all during the year. Baptisms (in the nearby streams) were mentioned in October, November, and March in addition to the summer months.

The early pastors supported themselves and their families from their farms, because their salaries were too meager. Many times a little fodder (bundles of corn blades) was all that they received. Bibles were studied for sermon preparation when they stopped the plow in the field to rest.



Horse back was the mode of travel for most pastors and many others, until after the Civil War. However, large families did travel in wagons. An upping block was a necessity and there were plenty of trees to hitch the horses. Many people gave little thought to walking several miles to church. They wore their "every day" shoes until they were ready to round the last curve to the church. There they stopped to change to their "Sunday Shoes".

The church houses were like the homes, built near a spring to provide water. Always there were services the first Sunday and Saturday before in each month except in the most severe winter weather.

When the pastor lived some distance away from his church he spent the week-end among his members. Who knows, many sermons were completed on the way to the church. The way was long and travel slow. Then too, when the horse had made the trip a few times, he could guide the traveler on his way without much aid.

Zion was established 1816, before Rutherford County was divided, 1842. In the beginning, Zion held membership in the Broad River Association and entertained that association two times before the Kings Mountain Baptist Association was organized in 1850. Zion first entertained the last named association in 1855. That was a hundred years ago.

The church rules were strict in those days. All male members were required to attend the Saturday Conferences. If they failed to do so and did not give a satisfactory reason for their absences, they were excluded from the church. Exclusions were a common practice. If one joined a church of another faith, left his wife, was heard cursing, got drunk or broke any legal laws, he was excluded from the church.

Mr. J. M. Wilson spoke of Zion as a "mother church", and truly she must have been, since delegations were sent to help form new churches and often members withdrew from Zion to become Charter Members of these churches. They are as follows: Zoar, Shelby First, Double Springs, New Prospect, New Bethel, Pleasant Grove, Shady Grove, Ross Grove, Union, and Double Shoals.

The church doors were kept open during and after the





Civil War. No doubt physical progress was slowed down to its lowest ebb in this period. Faith and spiritual progress may have soared. The Christianization of the negro slaves was not neglected. They were given a certain corner or section in the church in which to worship and hear the preaching. They were permitted to join the church. Their names were recorded as colored members and there were sixty or more of them. They were admitted in the church about 1850. When the war closed and the slaves were liberated, all had not withdrawn their membership from Zion until 1875 or possibly later.

### **LAND DEEDS**

On April 4th, 1814, three acres of land were bought at the price of \$20.00 from Mr. Billy Weathers by the Anabaptists Church or Society at Zion. Samuel Bailey, William Covington and Mark Deadmon were commissioned by the Society of Zion to transact the business.

In March 1880 a little more than two acres of land were bought from Mr. W. R. Wellmon at \$15.00 per acre.

One eighth of an acre to square the lot for the new church, which was in progress, was purchased from Mr. L. J. Wiggins in Nov. 1927. The total cost amounted to \$28.94.

One and one-half acres of land were bought for the parsonage from Mr. G. L. Cornwell in 1945 for \$150.00.

In 1950 land was bought from Mr. Lee Cornwell and Mr. Vick Wellmon to bring the Zion property up to the two roads which had been changed for the fifth church house at a cost of \$200.00.

In 1953, one-eighth of an acre was purchased from Mr. Vick Wellmon for \$100.00 to provide a space for a road and parking at the rear of the church.

### **Church Houses**

The first house, we are told, was built of logs from the forest pines. We have no record of its construction. Though





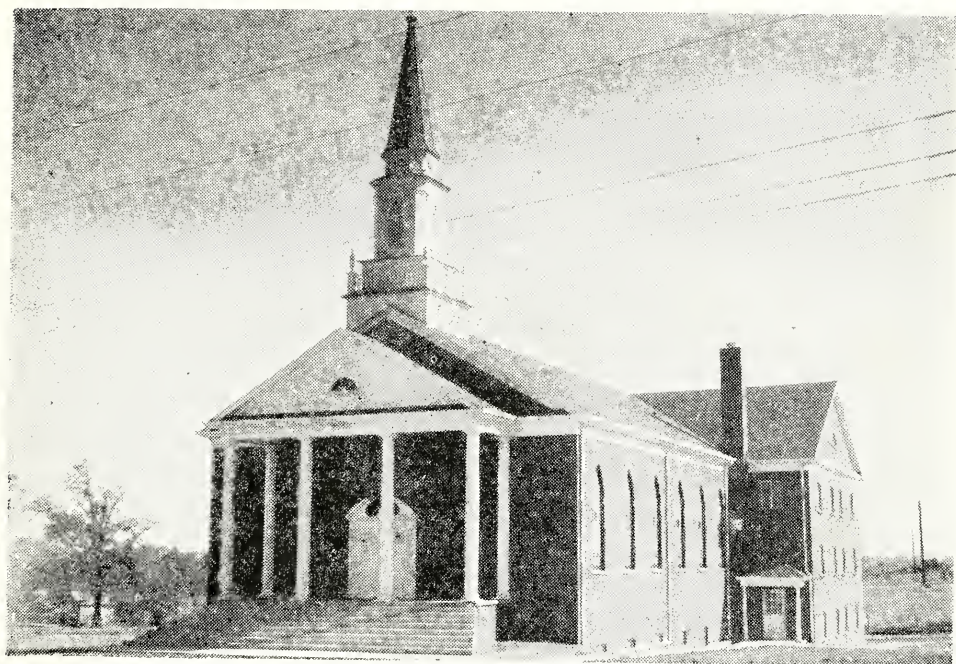
we know that it was built in 1816 and Rev. Drewery Dobbins was the pastor.

The second house was a framed unceiled building. The committee for its construction in 1858 was: Robert Poston, A. J. Irvin, C. S. Wilson, John Poston, Sr., and S. S. Simmons. Banister Willis was the contractor and Rev. Robert Poston was the Pastor. There were 134 members at that time. The cost of the church is unknown. The church voted to have it ceiled in 1875.

The third was a framed ceiled house, well lighted and ventilated. The date for its erection is 1883. Rev. A. C. Irvin was the pastor; the contractor was William Alexandra, the building committee was composed of A. Blanton, J. D. Weathers, A. J. Irvin, Samuel Poston, Daniel Poston, A. G. Weathers, and A. M. Cabaniss. The cost of this house was \$750.00, furnishings \$188.66. Total cost \$930.66. This house was painted inside and out and had green blinds at the windows. In 1913 a vestibule was added.

The fourth house was a brick structure built in 1927-1928. The first service was held in February 1928 with the building completely paid for. The committee for this structure was: Laurel Hoyle, Chairman, G. L. Cornwell, Treasurer, J. W. Irvin, J. S. Blanton and Frank Cornwell. Rev. D. G. Washburn was pastor and J. H. Bracket was contractor. The cost was about \$20,000.00. This building had obscure windows, and elevated floor in the sanctuary, with folding doors to open to the Sunday School rooms. There was a basement with more Sunday School rooms and a heating plant. It was dedicated in May 1928. In October 1941 it was voted to build an annex at the rear of the church and to install water and a baptistry. The baptistry painting was done by Lyda Poston. The last funeral held in it was for Mrs. Vic. Wellmon.

The fifth church house is a brick structure. The building committee for which was: Walter Davis, Chairman, Lee Cornwell, Treasurer, Frank Cornwell, Bob Cabaniss, Laurel Hoyle, Miss Ruby Irvin and Mrs. Ann Barron. The contractor was Mr. Grady Brooks with the Rev. W. V. Tarlton as pastor. The total cost thus far, of the building and furnishings is approximately \$116,000.00. It was completed and the first church service held on April 5, 1953. However, two fun-



eral services were held a few days before. They were for Mrs. C. W. Lanier and Mrs. C. G. Poston.

This fifth house is a beautiful modern brick structure with art glass windows and a spire which towers 85 feet into the air inviting the people from miles around to come to Zion for prayer and worship services. This building is most adequate. It has a large sanctuary with gallery and choir loft. The lighting system is modern and arranged for both direct and indirect lighting. The furnishings and woodwork are of oak finish. The rose colored wool carpet covers the entire floor of the sanctuary. The baptistry is elevated for the best vision to the congregation. The mural painting at the back was done by Lyda Poston. The electric organ and pulpit furniture complete the dignity of the sanctuary. The basement provides space for the heating plant, well equipped kitchen, large assembly room, storage and Sunday School rooms. There are three stories, at the rear of the building, which supply ample assembly rooms, class rooms, office, pastor's study and rest rooms.



**Reverend Drury Dobbins**  
**April 7, 1776 - May 19, 1847**

Reverend Dobbins became a minister at the age of twenty years. Because of his early ministry in a Christian home, he was probably reared on a farm. In addition to this he was a farmer and shoe-maker. He was married to Mrs. Hanna Sams Nee Callahan. Nothing is known of his education, but he was one of the presbytery who organized Zion Church, the oldest church in the Kings Mountain Baptist Association. He also helped in the organization of many other churches in this area.

He served as minister of churches for fifty years. Thirty-one of which he rendered service at Zion. No other Pastor has served that many years. Rev. A. C. Irvin came next with twenty-five. It is said his favorite sermon was "Walk about Zion" taken from Psalms 48:12-13 and that he seldom preached more than an hour at a time.

Rev. Dobbins was a pioneer for the Kings Mountain Baptist Association. However, his death came four years before it was organized. His body was interred on his farm which was located one mile West of Dobbins Church.

**Reverend Tom Dixon**  
**Dec. 24, 1820 - May 1, 1909**

Reverend Tom Dixon is the son of David Dixon and Suzannah Hambright Dixon. He was ordained in 1844. He is known to be one of the great preachers of his time and served many churches in Cleveland and surrounding counties. He became the first moderator of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association in 1851. In all, he served as moderator ten years, though they were not successive years.

Rev. Dobbins, was succeeded by Rev. Dixon, Zion's second pastor in 1847. He was an evangelistic preacher. Holding a revival the first year at Zion in which the increase was seventy-five. The greatest number to be received for baptism during a revival in all the history of the church. He gave the credit to the good foundation laid by Rev. Dobbins.

Miss Amanda E. McAfee became his bride and their famous family is as follows: Mrs. Addie M. Thacker, who taught in Oxford College, Dr. Delia Dixon Carrol, a noted physician, Dr. Clarence Dixon who preached in both England and America, and Tom Dixon famous author and playwright.

Rev. Dixon was active in his services to the Lord for more than sixty years. He was interred at New Prospect Church.



Robert Poston



## **Rev. Robert Poston**

**Feb. 4, 1825 - May 20, 1901**

Rev. R. Poston, a native of Cleveland County, was the son of John and Mable Patterson Poston. He was married to Miss Julia London Aug. 17, 1854. To this union were born nine children, five girls and four boys. Furman, the oldest son, became a Baptist minister.

When Rev. Poston was nineteen years of age he accepted Christ and was about to join the Methodist Church (his mother being of that faith). However, he waited a year during which time he read and studied the Bible. Then he joined Zion Baptist Church and was baptized by Rev. Dobbins.

After attending the Academy for sometime he taught several years in the common schools. He was ordained to the ministry in 1852 from the Double Springs Baptist Church. He had been licensed to preach at Zion in 1849. The Kings Mountain Baptist Association elected him moderator for the year 1866.

Rev. Poston was pastor at Zion and Sandy Plains when their second church houses were erected.

Quoting from a memorium published after his death: "Brother Poston administered to the saints, and spent months during the summer, holding protracted meetings. Preaching twice a day, on some occasions for as many as ninety days. — — — During the years of the Civil War, quite a number of widows and others in needy circumstances were supplied with food from his garden and pantry. He was a good nurse, and would sit night after night with the sick. They never called upon him in vain. It was a source of great pleasure to be of service to them."

Near the end he said, "I have been here long enough! My trust is in the Lord Jesus Christ." He was laid to rest at Zion.

**Reverend A. J. Cancellor**

**May 26, 1825 - Feb. 24, 1872**

Reverend A. J. Cancellor, a graduate of the University of North Carolina 1847, was the son of Sheriff Henry Cancellor of Lincoln County. He was married the same year of his graduation to Miss Mary Ann Martin of Wilkes County. Reverend Hill was his pastor at Salem Baptist Church at the time of his conversion and baptism. He recognized Reverend Hill as his father in the gospel. In 1851 he was licensed to preach, and he became a member of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association in 1856. For a number of years, he published a paper in Shelby. His diary shows that he baptized 3,000 during his ministry. He was elected clerk of the Broad River Baptist Association in 1853. However, he moved away to Arkansas in 1872, and his final resting place is not known.

**Rev. James H. Yarborough**

**Oct. 23, 1831**

Reverend Yarborough was married to Miss Lenora Stroud. He was ordained to the ministry in 1863 at Beavertown and served as moderator of Kings Mountain Baptist Association in 1867-68. While the Association was in session at Double Springs in 1869 he was elected as a delegate to the State Convention. He was one of the first college trained pastors in this area and promoted schools in this territory. He acted as Peacemaker when the association was divided over the temperance question.

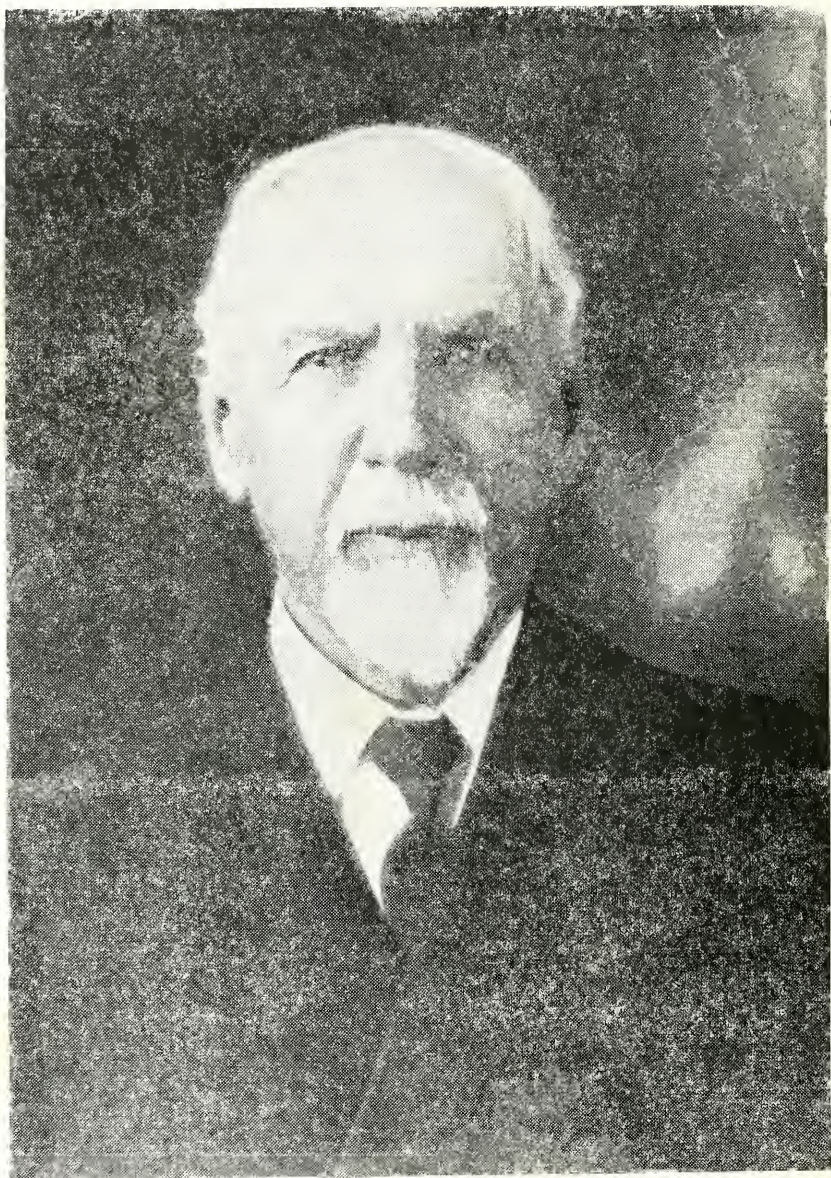
**Reverend Landrum Cicero Ezell**

**May 16, 1843 - March 11, 1928**

Rev. Ezell, eldest son of John S. and Margaret Tomas Ezell, was a good English scholar and teacher. He showed much interest in the education of the young people. In 1867 he was ordained to the ministry at the Kings Mountain Association by the request of the Shelby Church of which he was a member. This was an unusual procedure both then and now to ordain a candidate at the associational meeting. While the association was in session at Double Springs in 1869, he was elected delegate to the State Convention. He served as clerk of the Spartanburg Association in 1871 and was their moderator in 1873.

Miss Martha Barnett became his bride in 1866. He was interred at Bethany Baptist Church near Woodruff, South Carolina.





*A. C. Irwin*

50

**Rev. Abram C. Irvin**

**Feb. 4, 1843 - Jan. 8, 1926**

Rev. A. C. Irvin was born and reared in the Zion Community. In fact, he spent all of his life there except, after his retirement, he lived with his daughter, Mrs. Chevious Washburn of Shelby, a few years before his passing. He is the son of Mr. Ancel J. and Mrs. Elizabeth Beam Irvin. He was first married to Miss Harriet A. Weathers. Mrs. Ollie Irvin Wood and Mrs. Hessie Irvin Washburn were their children. His second marriage was to Miss Mariah Jane Cornwell. Their children were three sons: Jim W., John Y., and G. Pink and a daughter, May. The three sons are living now and have been active in their church holding positions such as deacon, S. S. teacher, S. S. Supt. and Church Treasurer.

Rev. Irvin served in the Civil War before he became a preacher. He was captured by the Yanks and imprisoned in Richmond, Virginia where he nursed his fellow prisoners who were sick and wounded.

A beautiful life was his in service to his God and man. He was dearly beloved in his home community by both the adults and the children. He was never too busy to have a smile and a word of cheer to all who came in contact with him.

At the age of fifteen, he joined the church and was baptized by Rev. R. Poston. He was ordained to the ministry at Zion in 1875 and accepted the call to preach there that same year. He did not believe in preaching long at a place at a given time, therefore he resigned to be called back again and again. In all he was pastor at Zion, his home church, twenty five years. The Kings Mountain Baptist Association elected him moderator and kept him in that position for ten years. He also preached the introductory sermon at the association four years. One of his favorite passages of scripture was taken from John fourteen.

After singing a portion of "My Latest Sun is Sinking Fast" he slipped away to be with Jesus and was interred at Zion.

**Rev. J. P. Styres**

**1844 - 1893**

Rev. J. P. Styres is a native of Roan County and lived near Lexington in his early life. Miss Betsy Broadway was his bride, and for a while they lived on Buffalo Creek (Beams Mill), where he ran a cotton gin, corn mill and a store. He



was one of the presbytery who organized both Ross Grove and Pleasant Grove Churches.

His children numbered ten, one of which lived in the Zion community. She was Mrs. Mary Styres (Johnny) Weathers.

Rev. Styres served for a while in the Confederate Army. His body was interred at Jersey Baptist Church near Lexington.



*J. J. Moore*



**Rev. Tillman Jefferson Moss**

**March 4, 1852 - June 8, 1914**

Rev. Moss was born and reared, and made his home in the Forest City Area. He was first married to Miss Alice Smith of Cowpens, S. C. to which union five girls and four boys were born. Of this number only three survive. They are: Charles, Spurgeon, and Macie (Mrs. Moss) Reinhardt all of Forest City. He was later married to a Zion daughter, Miss Addie Weathers, to them were born two daughters, Alice and Thelma.

Rev. Moss was of medium build with dark hair and eyes. He was said to be a marvelous man of prayer and a very staunch Baptist. His power as an evangelist was keenly felt in his home community as well as at other places. In Forest City, he held what was perhaps the largest baptismal service ever held at that church.

He was a farmer and worked in the fields until Friday noon, reserving for study, the time until he hitched to his buggy on Saturday morning to go to his church Conference. He spent both Saturday and Sunday nights on the field and drove home on Monday. Like the other ministers of his time, he received very little financial support. However, he was well repaid by the response of the people to his preaching.

His body was interred at Forest City.



*P. L. Linnrick*

**Rev. R. L. Limrick**

**Jan. 1, 1852 - July 13, 1919**

Rev. Limrick was a native of Virginia, who came into this county for a while. He preached the introductory sermon at Double Springs when the Kings Mountain Baptist Association assembled there in 1900. He was a favorite among the young people.

Zion sent a delegation to Double Springs, while Rev. Limrick was our pastor, for the ordination of D. G. Washburn.

He was interred at Bethel Baptist Church, Ellenboro.





*J. W. Havrill*

**Rev. Zachariah Dobbins Harrill**

**May 29, 1851 - March 4, 1935**

Rev. Harrill was one of the best known and most useful ministers in his day. He began preaching at the age of twenty and preached until he was eighty-four. At the time of his death, he was pastor of the Concord and Campfield Memorial Churches which attest to his usefulness and popularity.

Rev. Harrill was moderator of the Sandy Run Association for twenty-five years; and was one of its best and most progressive. His pastorates look almost like a roll call of the Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Associations. Just look at this list: Double Shoals, Zion, Zoar, Alexander, Bethel, Camps Creek, Cane Creek, Campfield, Memorial, Caroleen, Bethany, Floyds Creek, Mountain View, Lavonia, Shiloah, Mt. Vernon, Mt. Pleasant, Fairview, Head of the River, Mt. Olivet, High Shoals, Race Path, Pine Knob, Forest City, Florence, Sandy Plains, Sandy Run, Trinity and Walls. He also served as pastor of some churches in Burke County.

It is said that he never missed an appointment because of sickness until two weeks before he died.





*A. G. Washburn*



## **Reverend Dennis Gordon Washburn**

**April 16, 1874 - June 4, 1944**

Rev. D. G. Washburn, a native of Cleveland County, resided in the Double Springs Church community, throughout his life. His formal education was at Shelby High School and Wake Forest College. When he was nineteen years of age he became a member of the church and was baptized by Rev. A. C. Irvin. He was licensed to preach in 1895.

In the year 1900, Rev. Washburn was graduated from College, taught school at Double Springs, was ordained to preach, and married Miss Ella Victoria Hamrick. To this union were born one daughter, Sara Louise (Mrs. Lowell) McSwain and four sons: Herman, Raymond, Wayland, and Eulan.

No pastor ever worked more faithfully for the promotion of God's Will in his churches. He only served twelve churches in all the thirty nine years of his active life, which testifies to his ability to remain many years at a given church. He was a great believer in prayer and was often called to the bedside of the sick to pray, especially when the doctors had gone their limit. He was always a welcome visitor in the homes of his congregation. "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand" was certainly one of his favorite hymns. He suffered a stroke Oct. 29, 1939. He was interred at Double Springs Baptist Church Cemetery.



*J. L. Jenkins*

## **Reverend James Lineberry Jenkins**

**July 16, 1883—**

Rev. J. L. Jenkins, a man of dignity and serenity, is the son of L. L. Jenkins and Elizabeth Littleton Jenkins of Albemarle, N. C. He is the grandson of Rev. J. W. Jenkins, famous pioneer Baptist preacher of Stanley and Montgomery Counties.

On January 2, 1918, he was married to Miss Kate McArn Watson, of Riverton, Scotland County. Their four children are as follows: J. L. Jr. a special writer for the "News and Observer", Raleigh, N. C., Cathern Watson, Mrs. Eugene Vosecky, Boiling Springs, N. C., Ella McNeil, Mrs. R. G. Burrus, wife of Dr. R. G. Burrus of Morganton, N. C., Betty Lou, Mrs. Eugene Washburn of Boiling Springs.

Rev. Jenkins was converted at the age of seventeen and received his education at Wake Forest College and the Seminary at Louisville. He has held the pastorate of churches in faithful service for forty one years. Meanwhile, he has been president of Gardner-Webb College three years and filled out the presidency for two other presidents. He taught Bible and sermon building at Gardner-Webb for ten years. At Fruitland, he taught sermon building and interpretation for nine years. He has been president of the North Carolina Pastor's Conference. He preached the Baptist State Convention Sermon in 1950.

Though he retired in 1952, he is still active in service for the Lord. He teaches in Preacher's and deacon's schools, works in stewardship revivals and evangelistic campaigns. At present, he is at home with his daughter, Mrs. Eugene Washburn and Mr. Washburn, in Boiling Springs, N. C.





*W. A. Cyers*



**Dr. W. A. Ayers**

**Feb. 5, 1874 - Apr. 20, 1949**

Dr. William A. Ayers supplied at Zion for a year, although he had retired from active work when he completed twenty years of service at the Forest City First Church.

Miss Elizabeth Salisbury of Hamilton, N. C. became his bride Jan. 24, 1900. To this union were born one girl and four boys. Mary, the daughter, was called away when quite a young lady. The sons: James, a physician, Robert, a minister, who is now teaching Bible at the University in Athens, Georgia, William and William Cary are business men.

Dr. Ayers was moderator of the Sandy Run Baptist Association for several years. For a number of years he had been a trustee of each of the following: Meredith College, Gardner-Webb Junior College, The Baptist Bible Institute, New Orleans, and The Union Mills School for Orphan children. He was also a member of the General Board which met once a year in Raleigh.

Dr. and Mrs. Ayers made their home in Shelby when Dr. Ayers passed away. He was interred at Forest City.



*W. P. Biggerstaff*

## **Reverend W. Palmer Biggerstaff**

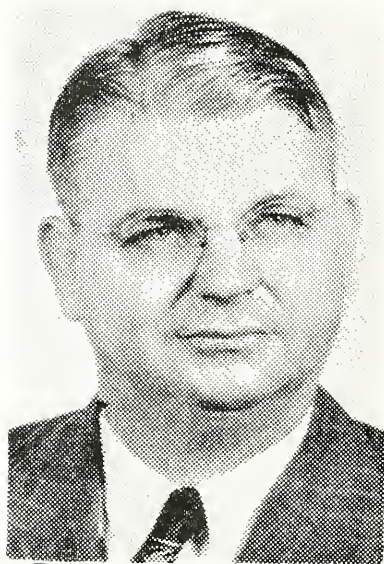
**March 5, 1902—**

Reverend Biggerstaff, is the son of the late E. H. Biggerstaff and Georgena Goldsworthy Biggerstaff. He was converted in 1914, called to preach in 1918 and was ordained at Mt. Beulah Church, Gaston County, July 28, 1922. Miss Minnie Elam became his bride August 7, 1925. To this union were born two children. They are: William W. who lives in Shelby, and Martha Frances, now Mrs. John N. Norton of Apex, North Carolina.

Reverend Biggerstaff attended High School at Gardner-Webb. Then he went to Mars Hill and to Furman University and was graduated from the latter in 1922. He has served churches in Greenville and Inman, S. C., Lincoln, Cleveland, and Rutherford Counties, and High Point, N. C. He preached the introductory sermon at the Kings Mountain Association in 1942.

During his ministry at Zion, much interest was shown in the young people, encouraging Camp attendance as well as activities at home. Scout troupes were organized and sponsored for both boys and girls and also a ball team for the boys.

At present, Reverend Biggerstaff is located at 119 Hillsboro Street in Raleigh, N. C., and is holding the position of associate director of the Allied Church League. He came to Zion in 1947 when the parsonage was new; therefore his family was the first to have lived in it. He has many friends in the Zion community and is always a welcome visitor in this area.



*W. V. Jarlton*



## **Reverend William V. Tarlton**

**Feb. 3, 1899—**

Reverend W. V. Tarlton, our present pastor, the fourth son in a family of eight, born to Mr. James M. Tarlton and Mrs. Rosetta Smith Tarlton of Union County. He grew up with a strong physique from the outdoor life on his father's farm. Then too, he is endued with a personality sufficient to mix well with all the members of his congregation. He also has a bit of humor which he introduces at the exact moment.

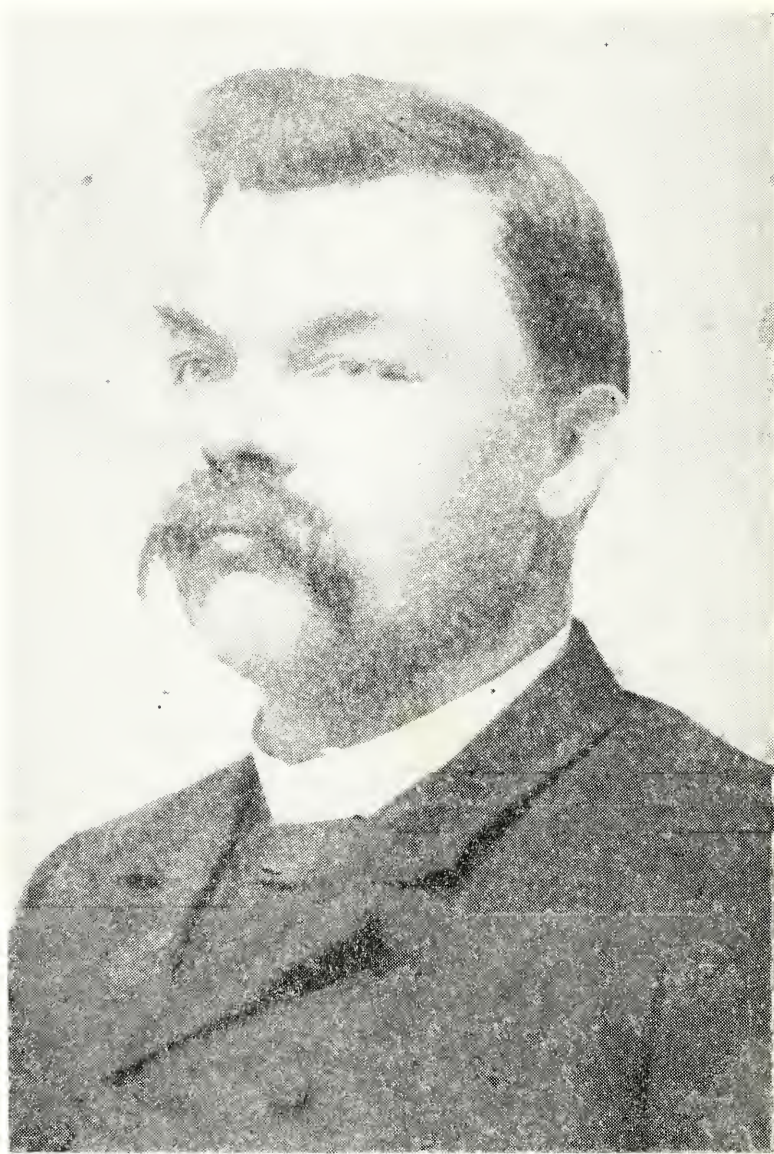
Training for his ministerial career is as follows: Union County High School, Wingate Junior and Wake Forest Colleges, graduating in 1925. Four years of teaching followed, with one year at Bunn High School, Franklin County, and three years as principal of Harris High School in Rutherford County. Meanwhile he was married to Miss Letha Carter of Murfreesboro, N. C., who also taught with him. Ordination came in 1929, and entrance to the Seminary at Louisville, Ky. The years of depression did not interfere, since reimbursements were supplied by a janitor's job. Graduation came in 1931.

Prior to his work at Zion, Rev. Tarlton served Rich Square and Mount Tabor Churches in the West Chowan Association for six years. While there he was Associational Sunday School Superintendent. Six years of service were given to each of the following churches: Cliffside and McGill Street Baptist Churches with elections of moderator to each of the associations there-in. Much progress was noted in these churches as to building, decorating, and missions, both home and foreign, while he was serving them.

Since coming to Zion the latter part of 1950, he has served both Zion and Polkville churches. He will serve Zion only, full time pastorate, after Jan. 1, 1956. He and Mrs. Tarlton reside in the church parsonage with their family of three: Ruth Janet, Edwin Carroll, and Mary Elizabeth.

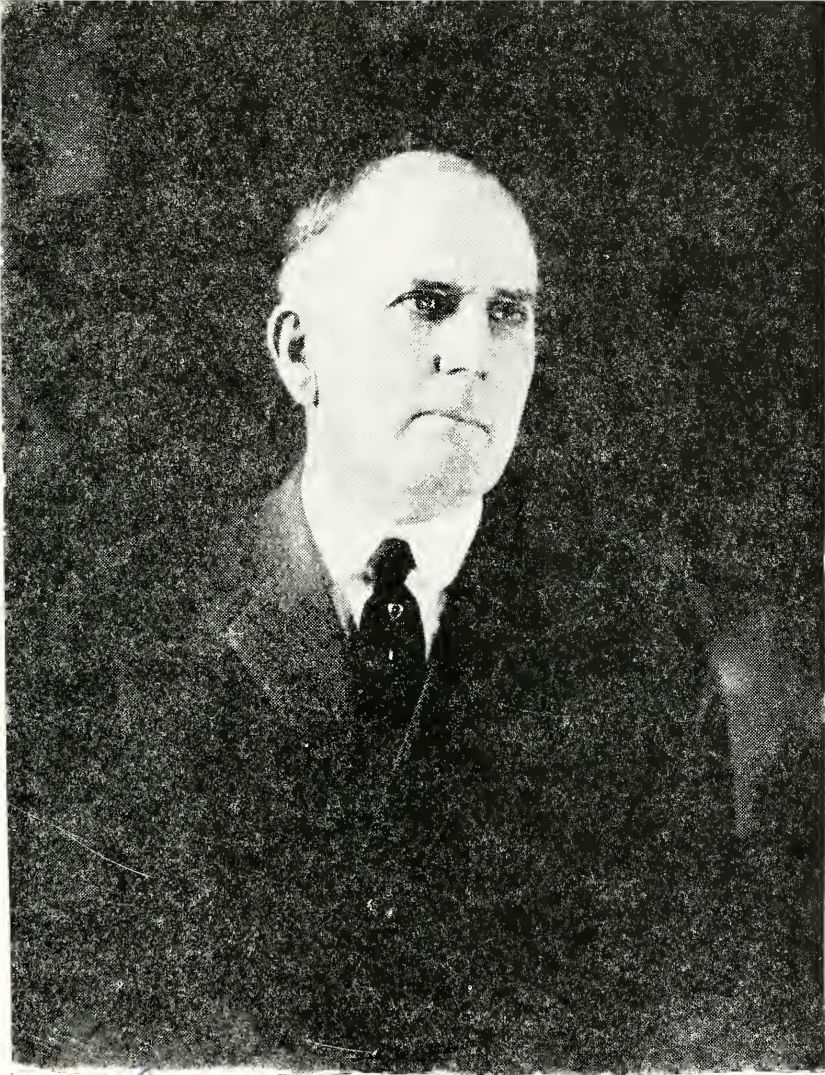
A new church has been erected at Zion since Rev. Tarlton came into our midst. It was completed in the spring of 1953, and all indebtedness cleared in the fall of 1955. The Kings Mountain Baptist Association was entertained the sixth time in the fall of 1955, which was a hundred years since it first met there.

We the members of Zion, hope to keep Rev. Tarlton many more years as much progress is evident.



*F. H. Poston*





*W. F. Putnam*

## **Pastors and a Missionary Who Have Gone Out From Zion**

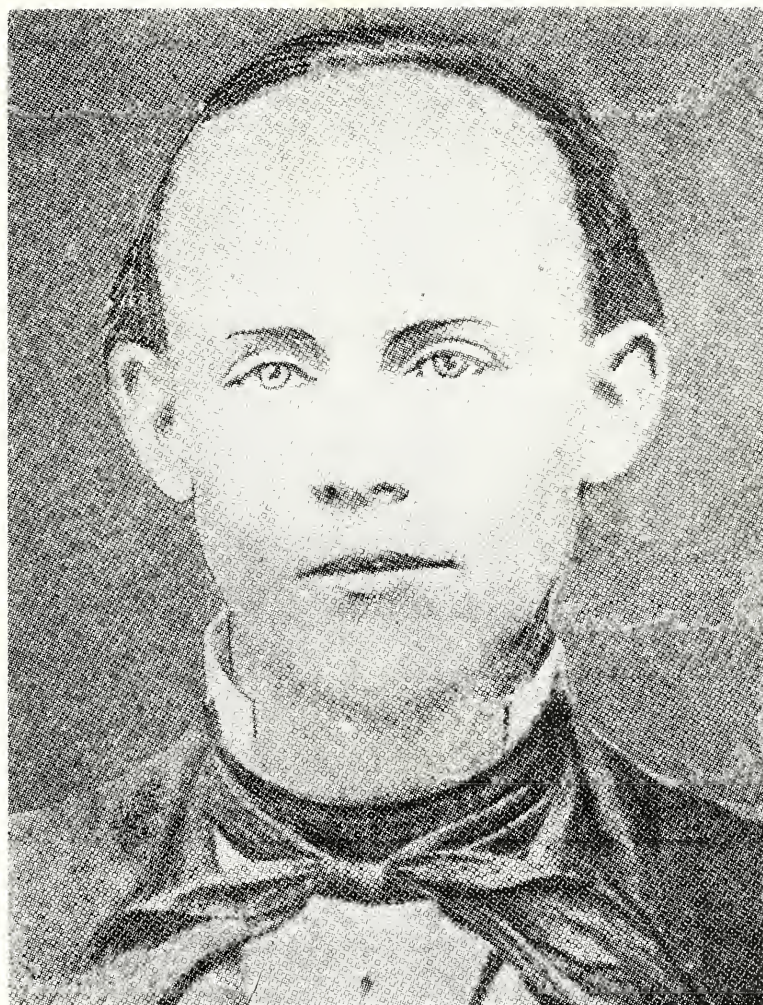
Rev. Joseph Suttle was ordained 1850, a pastor and temperance leader. His ministry was very effective, but brief, because of his early passing.

A. C. Irvin (whose life is written with the pastors of Zion) was ordained in 1875.

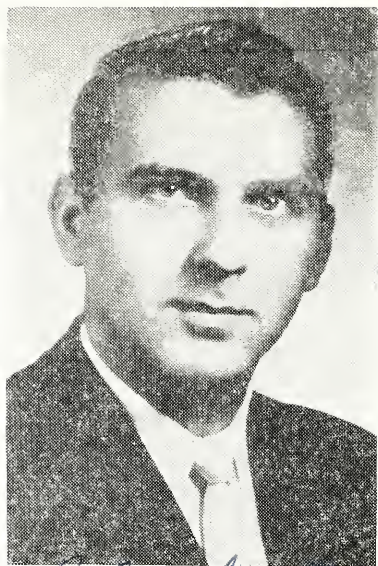
D. F. Putnam, ordained in 1897, held pastorates in many churches in Cleveland and the surrounding counties. He served eleven years on the State Mission Board. He spent his last years of service organizing and establishing new churches. They are David, Polkville, Temple and Putnam Memorial, all located in Cleveland County.

There are others, however, who have lived in the Zion community for a while, at least, that have gone out as pastors and into the mission field who were not ordained here. They are Robert Poston (whose life is written with the pastors of Zion). His son, F. H. Poston, whose work was largely in Georgia though he was active for a short while in the County. Albert Propst who was educated here in the states spent last year in London for further training. Miss Laura Cornwell, who has spent two years with the Baptists in Hawaii, was at home on vacation this summer, showing pictures and telling of her work. She has returned to Hawaii for two or more years of service.





*Joseph Sutcliffe*

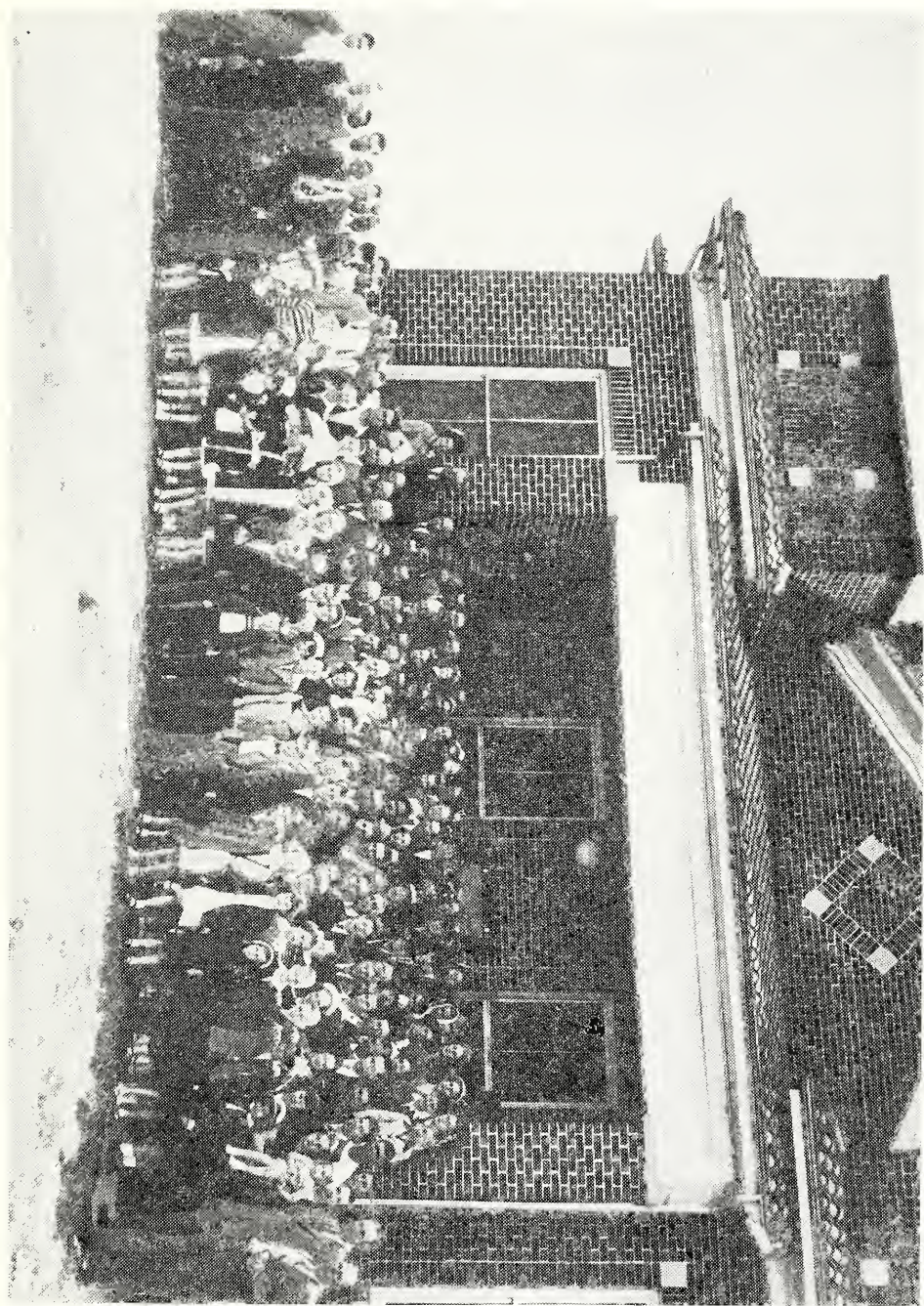


*Albert Propst*



*Laura Cornwell*





## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The first recorded information pertaining to Sunday School was in February 1865. The church voted to raise money to buy literature (Library as they called it) for a Sabbath school from the Rev. G. M. Webb, serving as a Sabbath School Missionary at that time. The following is a portion of the literature purchased and delivered in April 1865:

- 18 Child Question Books
- 24 Biblical Catechisms
- 14 Primmers
- 24 Catechisms for children
- 20 Little Peoples

Gospels and Bibles were included along with some other books. The total cost of them being \$34.74. On Sunday, April 1, 1865, the Sabbath SCHOOL was organized with the following officers:

Rev. Robert Poston, (Pastor) Superintendent  
Bro. Milton Gold, Assistant Superintendent  
Bro. A. J. Irvin Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Elizabeth Suttle, Miss Nercy Gorden, and Miss

Rachel Poston, as teachers.

Each of the three Superintendents held classes. Judging from the literature, it is thought that classes of all ages were taught.

There is no further mention in the records of a Sunday School until 1882, when Rev. A. C. Irvin was pastor. The literature and officers were not mentioned. Mrs. C. G. Poston (1861-1953) has often spoken of the Sabbath School at Zion (when she was a child) as having studied that well known "Blue Back Speller". She was too young to have attended the one mentioned in 1865.

Among the pictures and Keepsakes of Mrs. Rachel (Monroe) Weathers was found a Sunday School Card, the question and answer type, dated June 26, 1881, A missionary lesson based on Luke 24:44-53. It is thought that Sunday School has been held each summer at Zion since 1882. No school was carried on in the winter months because of weather, roads and heating facilities. Often in later years Sunday School was discontinued a month or more in severe weather. As late as Dec. 1919, the flu epidemic caused the church doors of many churches in the county to close. Zion remained closed until March 1920.

The older present members of Zion have said that Mr. J. M. Wilson and Mr. F. P. Gold were Sunday School Super-



intendents a good while before 1897.

The Sunday School kept improving from time to time. Class rooms were curtained off in the third church house and used a number of years. About that time G. T. Cabaniss became Superintendent. The church adopted the Standard of Excellence. Then, too, the fourth church house was built and there was rapid progress, as usual, following a building program. The Sunday School was departmentalized and the Standard of Excellence was reached a number of years. Weekly teacher's meetings have been held over a long period. J. W. Irvin supervised these meetings and often taught the lesson. In more recent years the pastor has conducted the teacher's meetings and taught the lesson.

In our fifth church house, there are assembly rooms and plenty of class rooms for each department. In fact, the Sunday School is graded and no department is being neglected under the able supervision of Walter Davis, as Superintendent. Our enrollment is 308 and our average attendance is 187. The above does not include the Cradle Roll, 20 and the Home Extension Department 27.

The aim in our present Sunday School is to enroll each person of the Baptist preference in our church community and to get them to attend regularly. Mrs. W. V. Tarlton has charge of the Cradle Roll and all of the babies are enrolled, but the other departments have not reached their goal, probably never will, but in the name of the Lord we are ever striving onward.

## **MISSIONS**

Zion began to be mission minded, according to the records, as early as 1880, when contributions were made for that cause. A little later contributions went steady to both state and foreign missions and by 1925 the church voted to pay monthly to missions.

### **W. M. S.**

Mrs. Tom Dixon talked missions to the Zion women and a mission society was formed between 1892-1894. It was active for a while. It is known that the society had \$2.60 on hand when it failed to function. That amount was given to missions through the church.

In 1905 Mrs. Minnie Ramsour and Mrs. T. Folliett from Lawndale came into the community to inform the women about mission work. Aided by J. Y. Irvin and his mother, Mrs. A. C. Irvin, a society was organized with Mrs. C. G. Poston as president. The women lived too far apart to walk

and not many drove the horses, therefore, it did not exist long.

Mrs. Ollie Irvin (J. W.) Wood from Boiling Springs made several attempts to organize a W.M.S. at Zion, but it was not God's time for it. Finally, in 1928 Mrs. Pauline Allen (Monroe) Poston moved into the community. She succeeded in both organizing and establishing the W. M. S. She made it go through her zeal and enthusiasm for the Lord. When her old car failed to go, she walked and went to the meetings, though she lived several miles away. Mrs. J. F. Lutz, Mrs. Turner Cabaniss, and several others were present for the first meeting which was held at Pauline's home. Mrs. Emma Cline (W. H.) Hamrick was present to explain the work of the auxiliaries.

A B.W.C. was added to the W. M. S. in 1948. Each year a new president was elected for it. They were: Mrs. Jack Barron, Mrs. Harold Roberts, Mrs. James Wilson, Mrs. Hoyle Cornwell, and Mrs. John Raynor. New members were enlisted rapidly and the W.M.S. was divided into five circles in 1953.

### **The Auxiliaries**

### **S U N B E A M S**

Mrs. J. F. Lutz organized a Sunbeam Band soon after the W. M. S. was organized and served as their leader twenty-years. Following her were: Miss Rachel Wellmon and Mrs. Odis Royster.

### **R. A.**

Mr. J. F. Lutz was the first leader of the R. A. Mrs. M. G. Cabaniss, Mr. Clarence Dixon, and Mr. Frank Barbee followed. It has been active most of the time since it was organized and certainly so the last few years.

### **G. A.**

Miss Josie Wilson became the first leader of the G. A. and served ten or fifteen years. She was followed by Mrs. Thurman Horn, Mrs. Bobby Rudasill, and Mrs. Walter Davis. About five years ago the G. A. was divided into Junior and Intermediate groups. Since then the leaders have been:

Mrs. Geo. Martin	Jr. Leader
Mrs. Walter Davis	Inter. Leader
Mrs. Bob Cabaniss	Jr. Leader
Mrs. W. V. Tarlton	Inter. Leader
Miss Thelma Spangler	Jr. Leader
Miss Ruby Irvin	Inter. Leader

## **Y. W. A.**

Soon after the W. M. S. was organized Miss Lyda Poston had charge of the Y. W. A. several years. Following her were Miss Janie Irvin, Mrs. Kent Harris, and Miss Ruby Irvin. It was kept active for a number of years. Since then there have not been enough girls in the home community to justify an organization.

## **Administering Baptism**

Since Baptists are strict about their baptizing, all members have been immersed. Many were baptized in ponds, made in near by creeks, or in the river which is not too far away.

Following the erection of the fourth house 1928, an out door cement pool was constructed and used a number of years. Joyce Williamson was the last one baptized in it. She is a descendent of both William Covington and the Rev. Robert Poston.

The above forms of baptism were given for 125 years. However, in 1941 the annex with a baptistry was added to the fourth Church. Jane Cabaniss was the first one baptized in it. She is a great grandchild of William Covington. Larry Cornwell, son of Tom Cornwell a present deacon, was the last one baptized in it. The oldest person to have been baptized at Zion was a man eighty-one years of age.

When the fifth house was erected with its new baptistry, Dell Wilson was the first one baptized. She is a descendant of J. M. Wilson, a former deacon and prominent man in the history of Zion Church. After the painting was done and the baptistry really completed, Judy Wright was baptized first.

## **MUSIC**

Music has played an important part in the worship services and in the history of Zion. Some of the early hymn books had notes while others did not. Song masters understood the C. M., L. M., 7S, 12 S and so on. These men of Faith who loved the Lord led the singing with spirit and fervor, and all who could sing, joined in the praise to God. The greatest increase at any revival ever held at Zion 1847, was inspired by the above type of music.

Song leaders were not named before 1852 when J. L. Gardner was mentioned and in 1855 Samuel Wilson and N. C. Lovelace. M. M. Wilson and Able Poston were elected in 1861. A tuning fork has been mentioned in connection with the music but it is not known when it came into use. Another song leader was named, S. L. Gelespie. In 1875 the

following were elected: N. Cabaniss, J. P. W. Wilson, and Israel Champion. Then again in 1884 John D. Escridge, E. Z. Champion and F. P. Gold were elected.

In 1887, there was talk of buying an organ. Since Zion was never quick to take to new things, a period of six years intervened. An organ was purchased from S. L. Gillispie at the price of \$84.60 in 1893. J. W. Irvin, D. F. Putnam, Mamie Spangler, and Ollie Irvin raised the money by subscription to pay for same.

Singing schools were held in the summer one or two weeks in which a hired song master came into the community and taught the rudiments of music and new songs. Some adults attended these meetings, but they were held largely to train the children and young people. The over-all purpose, however, was to have better singing in the church. These singings were enjoyed by all who attended and certainly so, by the boys and girls who played tap and other yard games at recess and the noon hour. Sometimes a concert was given at the close of the singing. An event, which always drew a crowd and much comment.

The second organ was bought in 1915 and a piano in 1927.

Ben Nolon and Roy Propst each served as song leaders a few years and moved away. Then Lee Cornwell was elected. Later special leaders were hired at revival times. They were: Leland Royster, Clyde Gardner, and Bill Bridges. After a while choir directors were hired. They have been: Charles Loveland, Bill Bridges, Allen Jolly, and Billy Cabaniss.

At present, the church has an electric organ and a piano in the Sanctuary. There are six pianos in the Sunday School Department. Miss Frances Cornwell directs the choirs, and much interest is shown in the music. The present enrollment of the choirs: Adult twenty-six, young people twenty-seven, and Cherub twenty-five. The sweet tones of the chimes greet the members as they arrive each Sabbath morning; and as they file quietly into the church they can hear the still small voice saying, "O come let us worship and bow down".

## W E D D I N G S

In the early days at Zion there were frequent intermarrying among the members. Then, it must be remembered, the Zion Community covered a large territory, that is, before the nearby churches were organized. After fifty or seventy-five years the larger portion of the members became related, and marriages have been few among the mem-



bers ever since.

We are concerned first with the names of Zion daughters who married ministers, and then weddings within the church.

**Minister's Wives**

Julia London .....	Robert Poston	1854
Polly Weathers .....	A. C. Irvin	1866
Mariah Jane Cornwell .....	A. C. Irvin	1872
Eliza Spangler .....	Frank Putnam	1896
Addie Weathers .....	T. J. Moss	
Pearl Cornwell .....	Sylvester Elliott	1925
Ollie Mae Gold .....	A. B. Wood	1924

\* \* \* \* \*

Church Weddings held WITHIN THE CHURCH—Incidentally, none are known before the fourth church house. They are as follows:

Madge Irvin .....	Lowery Austell	1929
Inez Cornwell .....	Ralph Royster	1937
Mary C. Cornwell .....	Glenen Rogers	1939
Montrose Simmons .....	Harold Roberts	1942
Agnes Gold .....	Carl Overcash	1943
Martha Williamson .....	Tom Summers	1946
Dorcus Cornwell .....	Frank Barbee	1946
Jessie Putnam .....	Frank Wall	1947
Dorothy Cabaniss .....	Tommy Allen	1947
Joyce Williamson .....	Boyd Spangler	1952
Jane Cabaniss .....	William B. Walters	1953
Doris Cabaniss .....	Ralph Wright	1954
Mary Ann Metcalf .....	Scott Hamrick	1954
Ann Rudasill .....	Gene Blanton	1955

Joyce Williamson was married last in the fourth church and Jane Cabaniss was married first in the new church. Already there has been four marriages in the new church.

**Training Union**

Training Union work began at Zion Church in July 1921, when Mr. D. B. Simmons supervised the organizations and became the first director. He served several years and moved away.

Miss Ruby Irvin was elected the B. T. U. (B. Y. P. U. as it was known then) director in 1928, and served until she moved from the community to teach school.

Reorganization occurred in 1935 when Walter Davis became the director. He served until 1942 when World War

2 gas shortage caused it to close.

Clarence Dixon was elected in January of 1948. He resigned and Miss Ruby Irvin was again elected the director in September of the same year. She kept the office until 1954. Then Mr. W. L. Simmons was elected. He has served ably for a year. All of these leaders have served faithfully and much good has been accomplished.

### **Vacation Bible School**

During the summer of 1948, while Rev. W. P. Biggerstaff was pastor, a Vacation Bible School was organized and held for eight days. A Bible School has been held every summer since then for, at least, a week. The object is to reach, teach and train every child in the entire church community. Rev. Biggerstaff served as principal the first two years. Mrs. Montrose (Harold) Roberts also served two years. Rev. Tarlton has been the Bible School principal since his coming to Zion in the fall of 1950.

### **STRANGE HAPPENINGS**

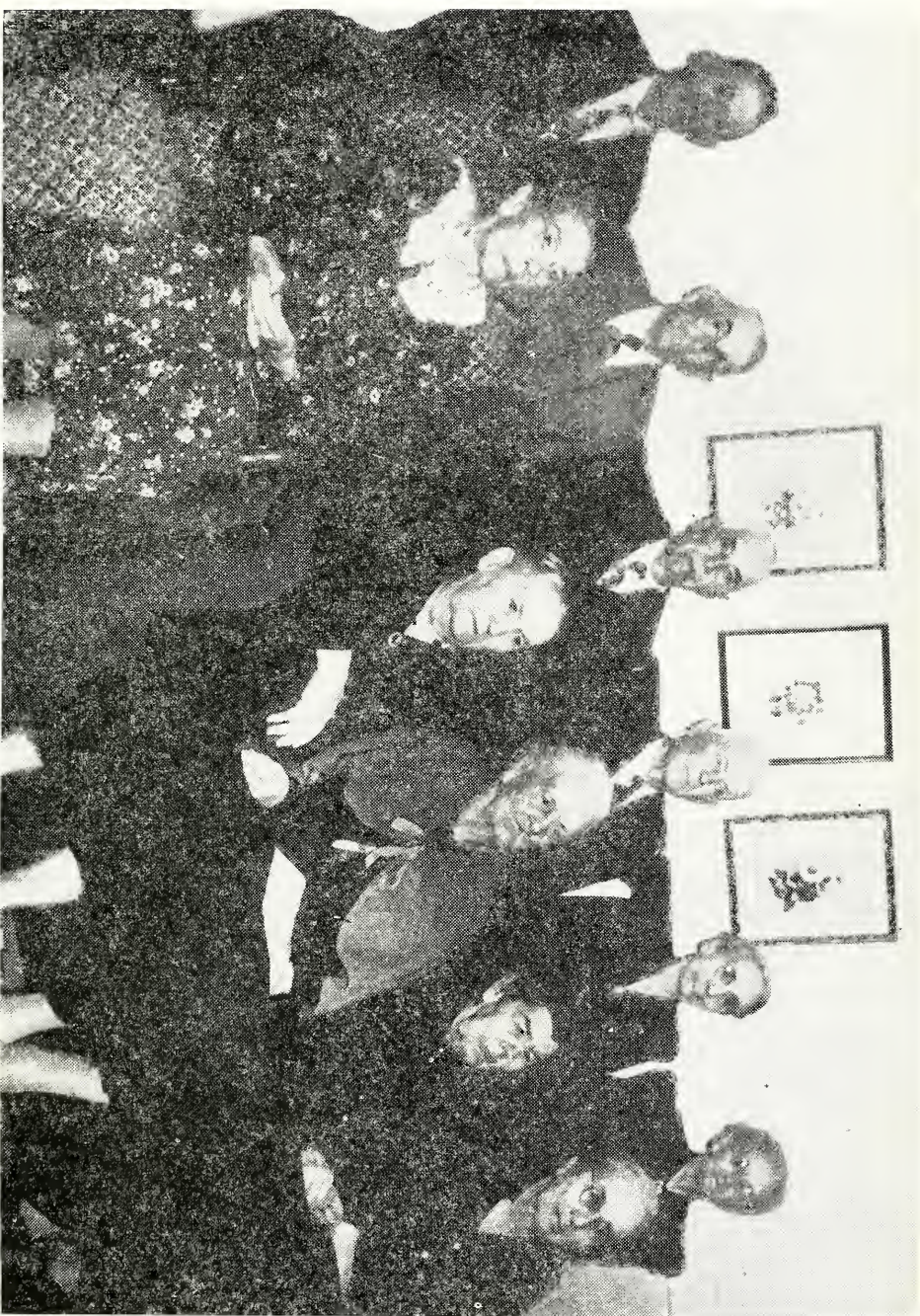
Rev. Joe Suttle (Grandfather of John W. Suttle) leader of the temperance cause, had been invited to Zion to speak on the subject of temperance. The date and hour had been set. When Rev. Suttle arrived the church doors were locked. Though there was a large crowd present, no one produced the key. Neither was he allowed to speak on the grounds outside. Mrs. Billy Wellmon, Sr. (Great grandmother of Gus Wellmon, a present deacon), invited Rev. Suttle to her home to speak in her grove. He accepted the invitation and a good delegation went to hear him.

A grandson verifies the fact that Mrs. Daniel Stroup of Cherryville walked to church at Zion. She left home on Friday, spent the night with friends both going and coming, attended the services on Saturday and Sunday, visited with the members and returned to her home by Monday afternoon.

Once when the memorial was held on the tenth of May, two deacons happened to arrive early and found a stand set up on the church grounds for the sale of lemonade. Needless to say the stand was soon dispersed and children looked on wistfully as the lemonade trickled off through the leaves.

Someone has wondered if the Sunday School literature bought in 1865, valued at \$34.74 was ever really paid for (it being at the close of the Civil War when the money was killed).





Oldest members while the new and final church was being built (completed by April 1st 1953.)  
 Front row left to right, Mrs. Mary Gold, Mrs. Joe Harris, Mrs. C. G. Poston, Mrs. Evelene Parker,  
 Mrs. Frank Cabaniss. Second row left to right, Mr. Clint Owens, Mr. Pink Irvin, Mr. Jim Irvin, Mr.  
 George Cornwell, Mrs. Julie Cornwell, Mrs. Florence Royster.

In all of Zion's hundred and thirty nine years of history only one will has been left to the church. That one was made by Mrs. Rachel (Monroe) Weathers in Nov. 1924.

One Sabbath morning, the boy dressed himself as usual ready for church and was unnoticed. The mother and older sister came out in their new dresses with bustles. All scurried about to get into the wagon in order to reach church on time. When the family was near the church door the father noticed the boy's coat tail standing out and flapping strangely. Upon investigation, the father yanked off the bustle and threw it back across the church yard toward the wagon, while the mother stood aghast and others chuckled.

In 1861, when temperance became a question in the churches, J. M. Gardner's conduct was discussed in conference as to the distilling of spirits. Where upon he asked to be allowed to "still the spirits" one more week and he would quit forever. The church decided to bear with him.

A similarity akin to apostolic succession is as follows: Rev. Drewery Dobbins( served Zion 31 yrs.) baptized Rev. Robert Poston (served 15 yrs.). Rev. Poston baptized Rev. A. C. Irvin (served 25 yrs.). He in turn baptized Rev. D. G. Washburn (served 19 yrs.). The four pastors held pastorates at Zion jointly, but not successively, ninety of the first 120 years.

One preacher in the early days, was paid \$12.00 for his year's work preaching at Zion. He gave back \$2.00, because he thought it was too much pay.

### **Later History of Z I O N**

Under this topic are to be given happenings of more recent years that are of too much importance to be left out, and have not been given elsewhere.

The first thought of church grounds was merely to have a clearing around the church house and large enough at one side for a cemetery. After a while these grounds were fenced in to keep cattle and farm animals out. Later walkways and drives were considered. Not until 1928 (when the fourth church house was new) were the grounds landscaped, with walks, drives, shrubbery, grass and trees. Since that time much thought has been given to church ground beautification. In this day the emphasis is on a large, well-kept, green lawn.

Zion has sent contributions for the education of the youth in our state many, many years. Wake Forest, Meredith, and Gardner-Webb have received the most aid. However, other schools have been helped.







The sick and aged have not been neglected either. Gifts have gone to the Baptist Hospital at Winston-Salem and homes for the aged.

Memorial Services were begun in the church in the year 1905. It was first voted to have it on the tenth of May. Two years later, however, it was changed to the first Sunday in May. Since that time Memorial Services have been held on that date—flowers were placed on the graves and dinner spread for the members and their friends.

The church in 1910 elected a sexton. W. H. Wellmon, at \$12.00 per year. Before that time it was done free of charge by deacons, laymen, or whoever happened to arrive early. A list of all who have served is given elsewhere.

Through the years their salaries have steadily advanced. They are as follows:

1910 .....	\$ 12.00	per	yr.
1925 .....	40.00	per	yr.
1927 .....	60.00	per	yr.
1929 .....	100.00	per	yr.
1947 .....	33.00	per	month
1954 .....	100.00	per	month

A full time janitor, Byers Wiggins, was elected in July, 1954, at \$100.00 per month including lights, water and a home in the old church building. L. G. Haynes, our janitor for the coming year, is to receive \$115.00 per month including a home in the old church.

The year, 1936, the unified budget systems was voted by the church. (Individuals had been collecting the pastors salary by subscription). The cooperative program was adopted in February 1937 and the itimized budget system was put into use in 1951.

In the early years no salary was mentioned in the record for the pastor. In 1857 and again in 1875 money was to be raised by subscription for the pastor. The amount raised was not given. Fodder was the pay one year. When Rev. Chancellor received 300 bundles. The year 1891 the salary was to be paid quarterly. The total for that year amounted to \$100.00.

1912 .....	\$150.00	per	yr.	1942 .....	\$ 720.00	per	yr.
1918 .....	225.00	per	yr.	1946 .....	1,000.00	per	yr.
1921 .....	400.00	per	yr.	1948 .....	3,000.00	per	y
1930 .....	550.00	per	yr.	1955 .....	2,760.00	per	yr.

Revival preachers who have come to Zion in recent years have had a fair salary per week. Sometimes the money had to be divided among preachers and music leaders. The

money raised for some has been from \$200.00 to \$446.00 a number of times. In 1950 when the church was without a pastor a few months, Rev. John W. Suttle came and preached the revival week and was given \$546.00. The greatest amount ever given a revival helper.

Below is given the church membership at different intervals through the years:

1816 .....	30 members	1899 .....	208 members
1847 .....	134 members	1927 .....	267 members
1852 .....	153 members	1945 .....	386 members
1883 .....	177 members	1954 .....	415 members

An itemized account of members in 1847 was given thus:

147 whites  
16 colored

---

163 Total

27 dismissed to constitute a new church

---

136

2 died

---

134 Final Total

The first hundred years was celebrated September 1, 1916. A large crowd attended the centennial services, Rev. D. F. Putnam preached the sermon. In 1919 a well was dug. Before that time only the two springs served to supply the water. Spring water was used a little more than one hundred years.

Lamps were bought for the church to be used by the B. Y. P. U. in 1921. Night services had not been held before then except once or twice when lamps were borrowed. A church library was begun that same year.

When services had been continued at Zion one hundred and twenty-four years on the first Sunday and Saturday before, the Saturday service was dropped and a third Sunday night service was added. By 1943 both Sunday services were held on Sunday morning. However, in 1953 full-time services came with preaching each Sunday morning, alternating the 10 and 11 o'clock hours with the Polkville church. Finally, in 1955 the church voted to have full time services and not share the pastor with another church. This became effective on January 1, 1956.

Zion church members look back with reverence, and a distinct pride upon the 139 years of history, the work done by their ancestors and its physical out come. No one can measure or estimate the spiritual value. We hope and pray that the past, present and future labors of this church have been and shall ever be pleasing to God and guided by the

Holy Spirit. May Praise to God and the salvation of lost souls ever be Zion's Mission on this earth.

The Lord's Acre Plan was adopted in 1950, so was the harvest sale. Both of these were used as a means to help raise money for the new church. The last harvest sale for that purpose was held October 8, 1955. The sale along with contributions which flowed in before and just after, cleared the church debt and left a surplus to be used on grounds and other necessary improvements.

### **ZION CHURCH PASTORS**

**1816 - 1955**

Drewery Dobbins	1816-1847
Tom Dixon	1847- 1887-1890
Robert Poston	1854-1855 1857-1865 1867-1870 1875
A. J. Cancellor	1856
J. H. Yarborough	1866 1873-1874
L. C. Ezell	1871-1872
A. C. Irvin	1876-1879 1882-1886 1895-1899 1906-1916
J. P. Styres	1880-1881
T. J. Moss	1891-1894
R. L. Limrick	1900-1901
Z. D. Harrill	1902-1905
D G. Washburn	1917-1935
J. L. Jenkins	1936-1945
W. A. Ayers	1946
W. P. Biggerstaff	1947-1950
W. V. Tarlton	1950-1955

### **ZION CHURCH DEACONS**

**1816-1955**

Samuel Bailey	Daniel Poston
William Covington	M. M. Wilson
David Warlick	J. D. Weathers
Anderson Elam	Milton Gold
A. C. Irvin, Sr.	A. C. Irvin, Jr.
M. M. McEntire	A. G. Weathers
S. Wilson	W. P. Wilson
N. C. Lovelace	E. W. Whisonant
J. L. Ledford	William Alexandra
A. J. Irvin	Roy Propst
Chapel Hendrick	Lee Cornwell



Ed Wilson	Dan Gold
Clarence Dixon	Walter Davis
Clay Cabaniss	G. L. Cornwell
J. M. Green	Tom Cornwell
O. M. Weathers	Gus Wellmon
W. F. Gold	William Beaver
J. M. Wilson	Lowell Yarboro
F. P. Gold	Odis Royster
D. A. Blanton	Jack Wilson
C. G. Poston	Webb Kiser
G. T. Cabaniss	Wilbur Simmons
J. W. Irvin	Bob Cabaniss
Grady Wilson	Harold Roberts
Frank Cornwell	Max Cornwell
G. P. Irvin	S. S. Mauney
Mont Cabaniss	Bill Horn
Joe Harris	James Wilson
J. F. Lutz	Joe Cabaniss
Laurel Hoyle	A. V. Irvin

\* Deacons admitted from other churches

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS**

(As recorded in the record)

J. W. Irvin	1897-1900
	1908-1917
	1921-1922
	1925-1926
J. M. Wilson	1900-1901
	1917-1918
J. Y. Irvin	1901-1905
F. P. Gold	1905-1908
	1918-1921
S. S. Mauney	1922-1925
G. T. Cabaniss	1927-1938
J. F. Lutz	1938-1944
Walter Davis	1944-

### **W. M. U. PRESIDENTS**

Mrs. Pauline Allen (Monroe) Poston	1928-1930
Mrs. W. M. Martin	1930-1937
Mrs. J. F. Williamson	1938-1946
	1954-1955
Mrs. Roy Propst	1947
Mrs. Pleas Cabaniss	1948
Mrs. M. G. Cabaniss	1949
Mrs. Walter Davis	1949-1952
Mrs. Robert Rudasill	1952
Mrs. Bill Horn	1953

### **TREASURERS**

T. Lovelace .....	1859-
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A. J. Irvin .....	-1870
Daniel Poston .....	1870-
J. D. Weathers .....	-1884
C. M. Weathers .....	1884-1898
W. F. Gold .....	1898-1903
G. P. Irvin .....	1903-

(Omitted dates not in the record)

\* \* \*

### **BROTHERHOOD PRESIDENTS**

Tom Cornwell .....	1946-1949
Harold Roberts .....	1950-1951
Jim Wilson .....	1952
George Martin .....	1953
Clay Cabaniss .....	1954

### **Zion Church Clerks**

**1816 - 1955**

Samuel Bailey .....	1816-1854
A. C. Irvin, Sr. ....	1855-1858
A. J. Irvin .....	1859-1895
F. P. Gold .....	1896-1925
G. T. Cabaniss .....	1926-

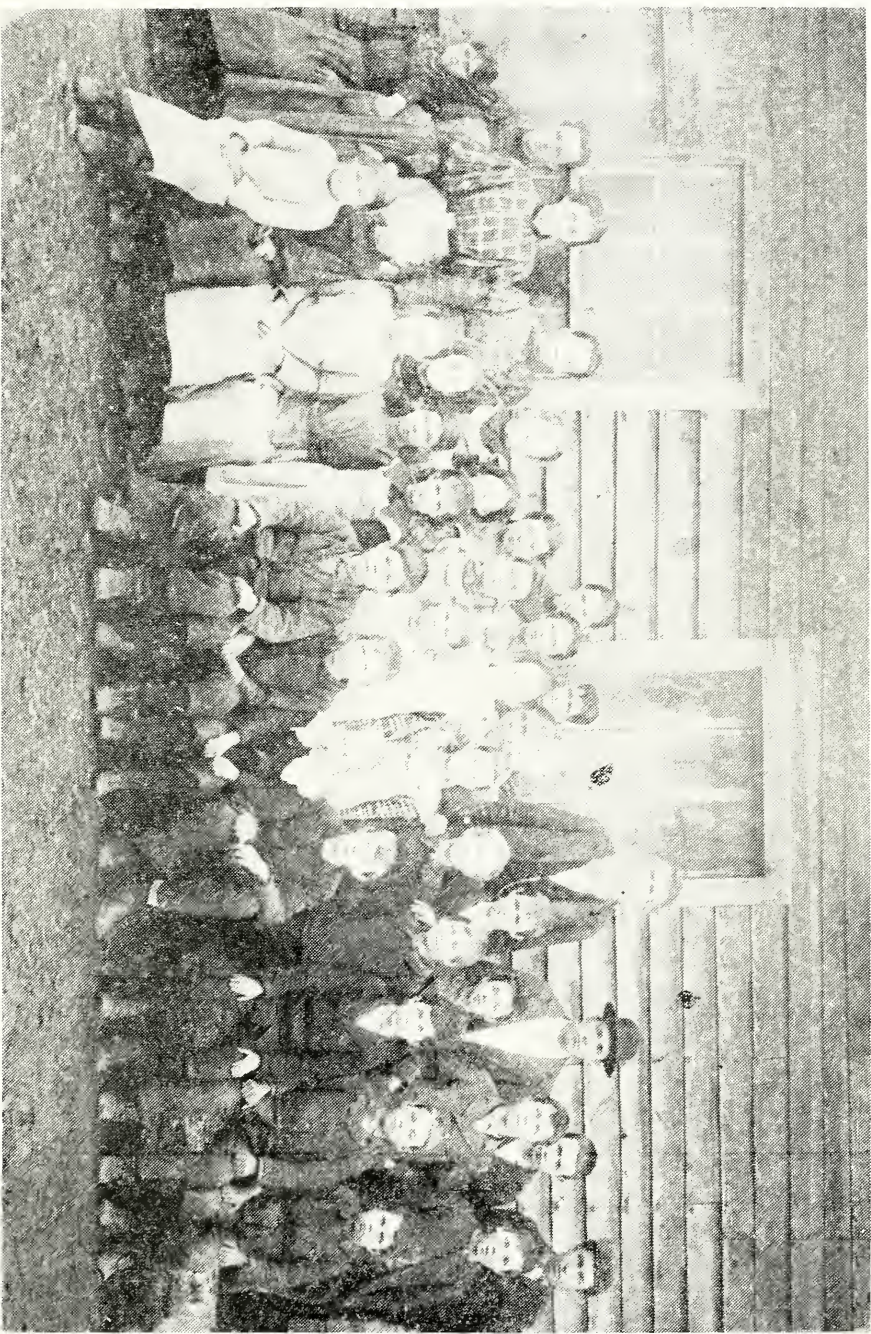
### **Organists and Pianists**

**1893 - 1955**

Ollie Irvin	Viola Nolan
Mary Spangler	Mary C. Cornwell
Eliza Spangler	Mrs. Melba Propst
Julie Gold	Mrs. W. P. Biggerstaff
Laura Gold	Mrs. Elaine Horn
Florence Wilson	Mrs. Sarah Gold
Maggie Blanton	Miss Frances Cornwell
Fray Cabaniss	Mrs. Betty Wilson
Ollie Mae Gold	

### **J A N I T O R S**

W. H. Wellmon .....	1910-1915
Grady Wilson .....	1916-1921
Clint Wellmon .....	1922
	1944-1945
Joe Spangler .....	1923-1925
Jim Spangler .....	1926
J. M. Putnam .....	1927-1941
Maynard Wellmon .....	1942-1943
Albert Propst .....	1946
Everett Wellmon .....	1947-1951
Zion Women (Did the work to raise money to buy a carpet for the Sanctuary) .....	1952
Ed Wilson .....	1953
Byers Wiggins .....	1954
L. G. Haynes .....	1955



Picture of children and teacher, Mr. Jim Elliott of the Zion school, and the school house January, 1898.



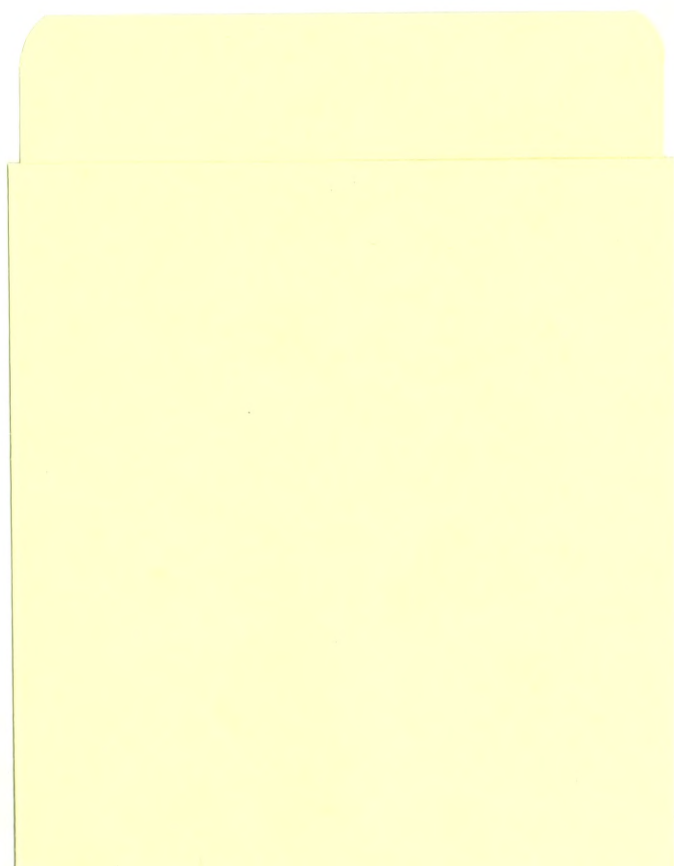




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